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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/808,343	03/15/2001	Masahito Kubo	826.1702/JDH	3462

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EXAMINER

WANG, ALBERT C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2115

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/808,343

Applicant(s)

KUBO ET AL.

Examiner

Albert Wang

Art Unit

2115

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8,9 and 11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Original claims 1-11 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dreps et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,470,458 (“Dreps”).

As per claim 1, Dreps discloses a timer adjusting system for adjusting timers of a plurality of processors in a multi-processor system, comprising:

a generating circuit generating a time synchronous signal for the multi-processor system (Fig. 3A, sync pattern 311; Col. 4, lines 35-42);

an output circuit outputting the time synchronous signal (Fig. 3A, driver 313A);

an input circuit inputting the time synchronous signal that is output from the output circuit and returns after being propagated in the multi-processor system (Fig. 3A, receiver 313D; Col. 4, lines 42-57);

a measuring circuit measuring a time while the output circuit outputs the time synchronous signal and the input circuit inputs the time synchronous signal (Fig. 3A, state machine 305; Col. 2, lines 34-40); and

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a synchronization circuit correcting time information of one or more timers of the plurality of processors using the measured time as a time for propagating the time synchronous signal between two processors in the multi-processor system, and synchronizing the timers of the plurality of processors (Col. 2, lines 40-42; Col. 5, lines 55-59).

As per claim 2, Dreps discloses the generating circuit generates the time synchronous signal using a signal that is generated by one of the timers of the plurality of processors (Col. 4, lines 35-42; Col. 5, lines 59-61).

As per claim 3, Dreps discloses the measuring circuit measures the time for propagating the time synchronous signal, using one of the timers of the plurality of processors (Col. 2, lines 34-40).

As per claims 4-6, Dreps discloses a first software unit executing a software command for controlling a reference timer among the timers of the plurality of processors; and a second software unit executing a software command for controlling a timer to be corrected, and the synchronization circuit corrects time information of the timer to be corrected using time information of the reference timer and the measured time (Fig. 3A, state machine executes code; Claim 3).

As per claim 10, since Dreps discloses the timer adjusting system of claim 1 comprising circuits, Dreps discloses the claimed timer adjusting system comprising counterpart means.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dreps as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Matsunaga, U.S. Patent No. 6,552,998.

As per claim 7, Dreps does not expressly teach the details of a storage circuit for storing the measured time. Matsunaga teaches such a storage circuit (Fig. 1, storage unit 130), wherein the measuring circuit measures the time for propagating the time synchronous signal at the time of initialization of the multi-processor system, and stores the measured time in the storing circuit, and wherein the synchronization circuit obtains the stored time at the time of correction for a value in the timer to be corrected (Col. 13, lines 21-32).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Matsunaga's details of a storing circuit to Dreps' timer adjusting system. A motivation for doing so would have been to ensure the integrity of the system.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 8, 9, and 11 are allowed.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert Wang whose telephone number is 703-305-5385. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 - 6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on 703-305-9717. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

aw
January 25, 2004



THOMAS LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100